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Urban District of Horncastle

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1946

Horncastle Urban District Council.

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1946

Including Certain Figures for the Years 1944 & 1945

This Report is prepared in accordance with Articles 6 (3) and 17 (5) of the Sanitary Officers (outside London) Regulations, 1935, and Article 14 (3) of the Sanitary Officers Order 1926, and Circular 13/47 dated 13th March, 1947, of the Ministry of Health.

Figures for the years 1944 and 1945, for which Reports were not prepared are included under the Authority of the Ministry of Health letters No. 3B (2) 1232/10000 of 28th November, 1946 and of 13th December, 1946,

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:
G. A. W. NEILL, T.D., M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H., Barrister at Law

Sanitary Inspector:
F. WEEBER, M.S.I.A., M.Inst. & Cy.E.

Inspector of Common Lodging Houses:
G. W. HORTON.

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To the Chairman and Members Horncastle Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Bryant and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year ended 31st December, 1946, including as well certain figures for the years 1944 and 1945. This Report is prepared in accordance with the various statutory requirements and directions.

In preparing the Report every effort has been made to confine comment to those objects where it is merited. and to avoid unnecessary verbage which would increase the cost of preparation of the Report. As a result of this, attention is principally focused on matters which call for improvement.

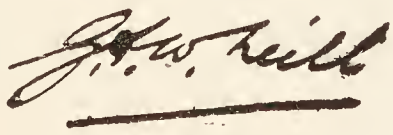
In view of the extremely backward state of the Sanitary and Housing conditions of the Urban District I have reported in detail on the matters coming under the heading of "Sanitary Circumstances." I am very well aware that much of this will be as unwelcome as it will be unpalatable. The persistent reluctance prevalent in Horncastle to admit the existence of unpleasant facts has contributed more than any other factor to the present unhygienic state of the Urban District. I feel that the time has come for these facts to be faced, and to this end I have catalogued the most glaring of them in this Report. I have not hesitated to recommend that consideration be given to the exercise of statutory power for combination with adjacent Authorities for the purpose of improving Sanitary Administration. I realise that this suggestion will hardly be popular, but to me it seems to offer the Council the only possible means of honouring the obligations imposed by Law on a Sanitary Authority—obligations which at present the Council does not seem to be in a position to meet.

If a voluntary combination of Districts could be effected at once on a basis of goodwill much future unpleasantness might be avoided, and the foundations of good and economic Sanitary Administration laid down for all time.

In conclusion may I say how much I regret that the contents of this Report are not more favourable. I feel sure they would be were the Council more ready to accept advice when it is first tendered.

On leaving the District I can only express the hope that for the good of Public Health my successor will experience a more sympathetic and more broadminded spirit of co-operation from the Council than I have done.

Your obedient Servant,



10th July, 1947.

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS

AREA OF URBAN DISTRICT: 1,421 acres.
REGISTRAR GENERAL'S ESTIMATE OF RESIDENT POPULATION: 3,446.
DENSITY OF POPULATION: 2.43 per acre.
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES: 1,109.
SUM REPRESENTED BY PENNY RATE: £62 8s. 10d.
RATEABLE VALUE OF URBAN DISTRICT: £15,824.

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS.

	1944			1945			1946		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	22	29	51	25	32	57	21	33	54
Illegitimate	—	4	4	6	6	12	5	—	5

	1944	1945	1946
Birth Rate per thousand estimated population:	15.26	20.69	17.12

STILL BIRTHS.

	1944			1945			1946		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	2	2	4	1	—	1	—	2	2
Illegitimate	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—

	1944	1945	1946
Still Birth Rate per thousand total (Live and Still Births):	98.37	14.29	32.78
Total Birth Rate (Live and Still) per thousand population	16.92	21.00	17.70

DEATHS

1944			1945			1946		
Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
22	34	56	25	23	48	31	39	61

Crude Death Rate per thousand estimated population: 1944, 15.54; 1945, 14.40; 1946, 17.70.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Number of Women dying as a result of childbirth.

(Headings No. 29 and 30 in the Registrar General's Short List)

	Deaths			Rates per thousand total births.		
	1944	1945	1946	1944	1945	1946
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—	—	—	—
No. 30 Other Puerperal Causes	—	—	—	—	—	—

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total Births (Live and Still) ...	1944	1945	1946
	00.00	00.00	00.00

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

(There were 3 deaths of infants under one year of age in 1946)

	1944	1945	1946
All infants per 1,000 live births	19.04	72.47	50.84
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	Nil	52.62	55.55
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	...250	16.67	Nil

OTHER STATISTICS

	1944	1945	1946
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	9	6	5
Measles (all ages)	—	1	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	- -	—
Heart Disease (all ages)	15	17	22

CAUSES OF DEATH AS SHOWN IN THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S SHORT LIST

Causes of Death	1944			1945			1946		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	-
4. Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6, Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System ...	2	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	—
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	—	1	1	2	1	1	2
8. Syphilitic Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Influenza	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	1	1
10. Measles	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
11. Acute Poliomyelitis and Policencephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12. Acute Infectious Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
13. Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesephagus (male) and uterus (female)	1	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	1	1	1	1	2	2	—	2
15. Cancer of Breast	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—
16. Cancer of all other Sites	4	3	7	1	1	2	1	2	3
17. Diabetes	1	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
18. Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	4	6	10	3	4	7	1	5	6
19. Heart Disease	5	10	15	8	9	17	13	9	22
20. Other Diseases of the Circulatory System ...	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
21. Bronchitis	1	1	2	1	—	1	3	3	6
22. Pneumonia	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	2
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
26. Appendicitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
27. Other Digestive Diseases	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	1	1
28. Nephritis	—	2	2	1	—	1	—	—	—
29. Puerperal and posto obortion sepsis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30. Other Maternal Causes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31. Premature Birth	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	2
32. Congenital Malformation, Birth Injury Infantile Diseases	—	—	—	3	—	3	—	—	—
33. Suicide	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
34. Road Traffic Accidents	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35. Other Violent Causes	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
36. All Other Causes	3	3	6	1	2	3	4	7	11
Totals	22	34	56	25	23	48	31	30	61

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

NURSING IN THE HOME.

The two District Nurses of the Lincolnshire Nursing Association are resident in the Urban District and provide and adequate service.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

As regard Bacteriological Investigations, these are adequately provided by the Public Health Laboratory, St. Edmund's Chambers, Bank Street, Lincoln. Chemical Analyses when necessary have been carried out by Mr. W. W. Taylor, Public Analyst, Nottingham.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) Accident and General.

The British Red Cross Society maintains a two stretcher ambulance which is garaged at the Ship Hotel. This is available for all purposes for which it might be required in the Urban District except Infectious Diseases.

(b) Infectious Diseases.

The Urban District remains dependent on the service provided by such Authorities as accept cases if infectious disease from it in their Isolation Hospitals.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

The Lindsey County Council as Education, Maternity and Child Welfare and Tuberculosis Authority provides such services as are available in the Urban District, and maintains Clinic Buildings at Rolleston House, Bridge Street.

The arrangements are as follows:—

Clinic.	Day and time.
School Clinic (Minor Ailments)	Thursday 10 a.m.
Tuberculosis Dispensary	Thursday 10 a.m.
Maternity and Child Welfare	Tuesday 2 p.m.
Ophthalmic	By arrangement.
Dental	By arrangement.

Other services available by arrangement at other centres:—

Rheumatic and Heart Disease Clinic.

Ultra Violet Light Orthopaedic.

Venereal Diseases

One point which has given rise to considerable misgiving regarding the adequacy of the County Council's services is the lack of provision of a Health Visitor in Horncastle during 1946. The Health Visitor allotted to the Woodhall Spa area attends the Clinic and assists generally in the District. This arrangement, while suitable for a short period of emergency, is far from satisfactory when continued for so long a period. The Urban District Council has requested the County Council to take steps to appoint a Health Visitor to the area but at the date of writing the position remains unaltered. There is no doubt that the normal services for two areas cannot be provided by one Health Visitor. Consequently the services in both are suffering. This defect will be remedied during 1947. (A new Health Visitor took up duties in Horncastle in May, 1947).

HOSPITALS

GENERAL HOSPITALS.

The County Infirmary at Louth, under County Administration is available for the inhabitants of the Urban District.

The Horncastle and District War Memorial Hospital serves the District admirably as a Voiuntary Hospital. There are 15 beds

The Lincoln County Hospital also collects from the Urban District and in certain cases provides treatment for persons resident in Horncastle.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITALS.

There is no permanent arrangement for the hospitalisation of cases of infectious disease occuring in the Urban District. Accommodation must be sought by the Medical Officer of Health in any Infectious Diseases Hospital willing to accept cases as and when they occur. This arrangement cannot be considered satisfactory, but, as there is every hope of its being remedied in the near future when the National Health Services Act comes into force, further comment is unnecessary.

TUBERCULOSIS HOSPITALS.

As with all other arrangements for the treatment of Tuberculosis, Hospital and Sanatorium Treatment is arranged by the Lindsey County Council either in its own institutions at Branston, Louth, or Brumby or by arrangements with other Authorities.

MATERNITY HOSPITALS.

Maternity Hospital Treatment is provided by the Lindsey County Council as Maternity and Child Welfare Authority for the District. Facilities exist for the treatment of any obstetric ermergency at the War Memorial Hospital.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF AREA

WATER SUPPLIES.

The water supply for the Urban District of Horncastle is provided by the Horncastle Water Company, a private company incorporated under the Horncastle Water Act, 1882.

For some time past considerable anxiety has been felt regarding the purity and wholesomeness of water supplied by this undertaking and frequent samples have been taken. One taken in June, 1946, showed evidence of faecal pollution. On receipt of this the Waterworks was visited and the situation was immediately reported to the Council in a Special Report of the Medical Officer of Health dated 18th June, 1946 (Sanitary Officers (outside London) Regulations, 1935, Art. 17(6).) In this Report it was pointed out that the gathering grounds were liable to casual contamination and that this had probably occurred from forestry operations; the wells and the pipes leading to the filters were inadequately protected from contamination; the filters were inefficient; and the storage capacity of the reservoir was insufficient. No permanent arrangements were in existence for chlorination, and in fact chlorination was only commenced by the management on receipt of the adverse report. The method of chlorination was incapable of control, consisting of a metal drum resembling a dustbin with a syphon tube delivering chloros solution directly onto the filter bed. The Special Report stated that the Medical Officer of Health could not accept responsibility for the control of water-borne disease until he had been assured by a Consulting Engineer that adequate means of providing a pure and wholesome water supply existed. This Report was discussed with representatives of the Water Company who offered to employ a Consulting Engineer. This was accepted by the Council though the Medical Officer recommended that the Council should employ the engineer.

During the Summer further unsatisfactory samples were received. When the Engineer's Report was to hand it showed that the terms of reference given to him by the Water Company were simply to report upon the measures necessary to provide chlorination.

In September a sample of the public supply showed a very heavy degree of faecal pollution. A further Special Report under the Sanitary Officers Regulations, 1935, was presented to the Council, forcibly pointing out the Council's statutory obligations. Ultimately it was agreed that a Consulting Engineer be employed. The Council instructed Messrs. Bateman & Partners of Batheaston and Norwich to examine the Waterworks and report on the measures necessary to ensure that at all times consumers in the Urban District receive a safe, pure and wholesome supply of water for domestic and dairy purposes. The terms of reference to this firm were satisfactorily wide, and shortly after the end of 1946 this firm presented their Report to the Council. The Report confirmed in every way the worst suspicions held by the Medical Officer of Health, and may be summarised in the quotation from the Report that "the Waterworks cannot be regarded as other than dangerous."

Simultaneously with the receipt of this Report the Water Company forwarded a Report from Chas. Lapworth & Partners, Consulting Engineers to the Company. This Report substantially confirmed that of Messrs. Bateman & Partners as to the unsatisfactory state of the Waterworks, though the recommendations did not go so far as Messrs. Bateman's. It would appear that Messrs. Lapworth's recommendations were more in the nature of an immediate scheme than the long term one offered by Messrs. Bateman. The Council have instructed Messrs. Bateman & Partners to consult with Messrs. Lapworth to see if agreement can be reached upon the measures necessary.

In the meantime the water supply in the Urban District must be boiled to render it safe for human consumption.

A suggestion from the Minister of Health supported by the Lindsey County Council has been received recommending the formation of a joint Water Board. Several discussions have taken place on this subject. The Council has, however, agreed in principal with a Board covering a large area of the County though not favouring one to include the Urban District, Woodhall Spa Urban District, and Horncastle Rural District alone. There is no doubt whatsoever that the formation of a joint Water Board would be an immense advantage as it would provide sufficient revenue to justify the employment of a properly qualified water engineer for the supervision of a satisfactory supply throughout the whole of the Board's area, and for the maintenance of plant and mains in efficient condition.

As far as the Urban District is concerned there seems to be one great disadvantage in attempting to form a Board of a large number of Authorities. The provision of a pure and wholesome water supply for the Urban District is one of desparate urgency. Negotiations involving a large number of Authorities are likely to be protracted in direct proportion to the number of Authorties involved, and it is difficult to see any of the parties involved in the supply of water for Horncastle embarking on a scheme of the kind necessary to provide a satisfactory supply whilst the future remains uncertain. It would seem, therefore, more advisable to form the nucleus of a Water Board even with only two Authorities and provide them with a much needed satisfactory supply. The negotiations with other Authorities could then proceed at leisure without the inhabitants of Horncastle having to boil the water all the time the discussions were taking place.

A table showing the results of Bacteriological examinations of the Water Company's supply during 1946 is appended herewith.

Date	Plate Count per ml.	Non faecal B. Coli per 100 ml.	Faecal B. Coli per 100 ml.	Report
16. 1.46	3	25	0	Below Public Supply Standard
25. 4.46	10	3	0	Below Public Supply Standard
7. 5.46	5	35	0	Below Public Supply Standard
13. 5.46	2	8	0	Below Public Supply Standard
30. 5.46	4	50	0	Below Public Supply Standard
3, 6.46	66	3	1	Evidence Faecal Contamination
12. 6.46	60	180	10	Dangerous Faecal Pollution
18. 6.46	4	0	0	Satisfactory
24. 6.46	10	0	0	Satisfactory
2. 7.46	12	25	0	Below Public Supply Standard
9. 7.46	8	0	0	Satisfactory
18. 7.46	1	6	1	Evidence Faecal Contamination
26. 7.46	15	1	0	Below Public Supply Standard
30. 7.46	4	0	0	Satisfactory
30. 7.46	4	0	0	Satisfactory
31. 7.46	4	1	1	Evidence Faecal Contamination
6. 8.46	3	0	0	Satisfactory
7. 8.46	0	0	0	Satisfactory
12. 8 46	4	1	0	Below Public Supply Standard
14. 8.46	3	0	0	Satisfactory
16. 8.46	8	3	0	Below Public Supply Standard
19. 8 46	4	0	0	Satisfactory
20. 8.46	3	2	0	Below Public Supply Standard
21. 8.46	3	0	0	Satisfactory
26. 8.46	5	0	0	Satisfactory
27. 8.46	4	0	0	Satisfactory
2. 9.46	5	0	0	Satisfactory
4. 9.46	0	0	0	Satisfactory
10. 9.46	20	5	0	Below Public Supply Standard
11. 9.46	18	25	3	Evidence Faecal Contamination
16. 9.46	3	0	0	Satisfactory
23. 9.46	100	180	180	Dangerous Faecal Pollution
30. 9.46	5	5	0	Below Public Supply Standard
2.10.46	5	50	0	Below Public Supply Standard
4.10.46	5	25	0	Below Public Supply Standard
7.10.46	3	0	0	Satisfactory
8.10.46	10	25	0	Below Public Supply Standard
14.10.46	5	0	0	Satisfactory
16.10.46	5	0	0	Satisfactory
22.10.46	5	0	0	Satisfactory
23.10.46	5	0	0	Satisfactory
25.10.46	3	0	0	Satisfactory
28.10.46	25	25	1	Evidence of Faecal Pollution
30.10.46	5	0	0	Satisfactory
4.11.46	10	5	3	Evidence of Faecal Pollution
7.11.46	3	0	0	Satisfactory
11.11 46	3	0	0	Satisfactory
25.11.46	5	0	0	Satisfactory
27.11.46	4	0	0	Satisfactory
28.11.46	2	0	0	Satisfactory
2.12.46	5	0	0	Satisfactory
4.12.46	3	0	0	Satisfactory
5.12.46	3	0	0	Satisfactory
6.12.46	71	8	0	Below Public Supply Standard
9.12.46	3	0	0	Satisfactory
11.12.46	3	0	0	Satisfactory
16.12.46	0	0	0	Satisfactory
18.12,46	5	0	0	Satisfactory
30.12.46	3	0	0	Satisfactory
31.12.46	8	0	0	Satisfactory

SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

In the Annual Report for the year 1938 reference was made to the unsatisfactory conditions existing in the sewers in the Urban District. The outbreak of war prevented any effective action being taken to improve these conditions which still prevail.

As regards sewage disposal the existing arrangements have during the year shown evidence of their inadequacy. They consist briefly of chemical percipitation screening and single hopper settling tank of 33,000 gallons capacity situated to the south of the town The effluent from this tank is led by a 12 inch pipe with a fall of 1/1000 to open underdrained lagoons situated 1930 yards away on the banks of the river Bain. At times some of these lagoons overflow partially treated effluent into the Bain. An initial inspection of these arrangements suggests that it is hardly likely that they could render the effluent in a condition to comply with the requirements of the Royal Commission on Sewage. In view of this a sample of the effluent was taken on 14th February, 1946, and the Report thereon confirmed that this was so.

The matter was brought to the notice of the Council with the recommendation that a Consulting Engineer be employed to report on the Sewage Disposal Works. The Council acted upon this suggestion and J. Haiste, Esq., Consulting Engineer of Leeds examined the Sewage Disposal Works and submitted his report to the Council. It was revealed from samples taken during the course of his investigations that none of the recommendations of the Royal Commissioners were being complied with. Mr. Haiste further reported that "The existing sewage treatment works are designed on a system which can give partial treatment only to sewage. The quality of the effluent discharged from the existing works must in consequence be below the standard required for effluents discharged into inland waters. The capacity of the existing settlement tank is also very much below requirements."

Mr. Haiste went on to recommend four alternative schemes whereby modern full treatment sewage disposal could be adopted. The cost of these schemes ranged between £20,000 and £30,000.

This report was considered by the Housing Committee of the Council on 28th November, 1946, and a recommendation that further consideration be deferred was later confirmed by the Council. The position of the Council regarding the Rivers Pollution Prevention Acts cannot be altogether satisfactory.

Points from analyses of the effluent are as follows:—

	***Recognised Standard. (parts per million).**	**Horncastle Effluent.**		
		14.2.46.	**31.7.46.**	**6.8.46**
1. Suspended matter	3	3	5	8
2. Albuminoid Ammonia ...	0.15	0.184	0.4200	0.40
3. Oxygen absorbed from KMno4 4 hrs. at 80 degrees F. ...	1.5	1.22	3.12	2.72
4. 5 days Biological O2 demand	2	1.60	5.20	4.90
5. 5 days incubation test at 80 degrees F.	Stable	Stable	Unstable	Unstable

It should be noted that on 14.2.46 when the sample of that date was taken a considerable quantity of the contents of the lagoons was overflowing directly into the river.

* This standard was laid down as the maximum permissible figures by the Royal Commission on Sewage.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The rivers Waring and Bain flow through the Urban District joining at the Western Boundary. There is little evidence of gross pollution and while some refuse finds its way into the rivers on the whole the quantity is small.

During 1946 complaints were received about the state of these rivers, particularly the Waring as regards the accumulation of weeds, etc. This matter was reported to the Council in August in view of the number of almost stagnant pools formed in vicinity of Willow Row in which many Mosquito larvae were found. Following this the Witham and Steeping Catchment Board was approached with the result that the river Bain was cleared of vegetation. The comments regarding sewage disposal might be considered under this heading also.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Owing to the fact that the sanitary inspection of the area has been allowed to fall in arrears the position regarding closet accommodation was, at the end of 1946, to say the least, obscure.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

This is attempted by the Council by direct labour. Collection is by horse and cart. Only one of the carts used is covered. Ashbins are not universally used by householders and much dust is disseminated in the course of collection.

Disposal is on an open uncontrolled tip some 60 yards by 70, one tipping face being into the water of a disused brickpit situated in Hemingby Lane. This tip is only 50 yards from occupied private dwelling houses. This tip was in an undescribable state in April, 1946, and this was reported as a matter of urgency to the Council. As immediate action was advised but not taken a special report (Sanitary Officers outside London Regulations Art. 17(6)) was presented to the Public Health Committee on 24th May, 1946, on the insanitary condition of the tip. The Committee inspected the dump and issued orders for tidying up. The Medical Officer volunteered to superintend this and pressed for the finding of a new disposal area. Nothing material to improve conditions was done and the matter was once more brought to the notice of the Council in July. After this three men were employed to tidy up the tip. This was done without any supervision other than that of the Medical Officer of Health. Some superficial improvement was made as far as was possible to safeguard the health of those living in the proximity, but as yet no action was taken by the Council to find an alternative tipping site. A detailed report on the condition of the disposal area was made in a report prepared in accordance with Ministry of Health letter IE1232/2201 of 13th August.

Following this the Medical Officer of Health continued supervision of tipping, acting, in fact, as a kind of foreman scavenger, doing everything possible to reduce the nuisance from the tip. A further letter from the Ministry of Health was considered in November, and the Housing Committee met at the tip on December 1st. The Medical Officer was not informed of this meeting, nor was he invited to it. The Council then decided to inform the Ministry of Health that the Committee considered the tip was then satisfactory. In view of this decision having been arrived at in his absence and its being a decision with which he could not concur the Medical Officer of Health thereupon prepared a further Special Report (Sanitary Officers (outside London) Regulations, 1935, Art. 17(6)). Following this correspondence passed between the Council and the Lindsey County Council with the result that a Sub-Committee of the County Council's Health Committee was invited to inspect the tip. This was actually done on 14th January, 1947, and at a joint Committee meeting after the inspection the Council agreed to find an alternative site for tipping.

There is no doubt that the closure of the present tip in Hemingby Lane will spell the removal of a great menace to the Health of the District. It is only to be hoped that the urgency of the matter will be more strongly realised in the future than it was in 1946.

SWIMMING BATHS.

There is a small open air swimming bath owned and maintained by the Council. It is filled with river water passing through an improvised ballast filter. Sterilisation of the water is carried out by the simple process of tipping a bucket of powdered chloride of lime into the bath. Bacteriological examination of the bath water is as follows:— Total Bacteria Count 890—Non Faecal B. Coli 8—no faecal B. Coli and no Pathogenic Bacteria. Considering the conditions prevailing this is remarkably good and is probably due to the unrelenting attempts of the attendant to keep the bath clean. He is greatly hampered in this way by the slow rate of filling and emptying from the river. A recommendation that a modern chlorination plant be installed was made to the Council but no action was taken.

SCHOOL HYGIENE.

There are three schools in the Urban District administered by the Education Authority. Each should be considered separately.

1. **The Junior School.**— It is difficult, if not impossible, to report briefly on this institution in moderate language. The only grounds that could justify its continued existence being those which justify the preservation of examples of long dead evils in museums. During 1946 there were two wash basins for over 400 children. Some of the lavatory accommodation compares unfavourably with that provided by the German Government in its Concentration Camps. In several Class rooms the natural lighting is inadequate, whilst the antiquated gasoliers increase the gloom rather than mitigate it. Cloakroom accommodation is such as may be calculated to destroy any clothing committed to it. Whilst the entire building is so old and dirty that (despite the valiant efforts of the cleaners), an hour at school reduces all the children to a uniform state of grubbiness. In winter the heating arrangements are far from satisfactory.

It is fully realised that today no magic wand exists whereby schools can be made to grow from the ground overnight. It is further realised that there are building priorities ranking higher than schools. It cannot be agreed as far as school building is concerned that in the whole of England there is a community more deserving of school building priority than Horncastle. Where else have we 400 children spending the most formative years of their lives in such conditions? Where else in England do 400 children attend a school whose conditions in 1935 were such as to cause the consideration of a new building then?

These conditions were reported to the Council in October, 1946, and also to the Local Education Authority.

2 **The Modern School.**— The buildings are more modern than those of the Junior school, but the school itself is overcrowded. The situation in many ways might be better, and the facilities are well below those expected in a "Modern" school. What the effect of a raised leaving age will be on accommodation here is not difficult to imagine.

3. **The Grammar School.**— This is one of the few bright spots in Horncastle from the Hygienist's standpoint. Conditions in this school may be said to approximate modern standards more closely than anywhere else in the town.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF AREA

The situation regarding the Sanitary Inspection of the Horncastle Urban District can only be described as most unsatisfactory. The principle cause of this is the fact that the appointment of Sanitary Inspector is combined with that of Surveyor and Markets Manager and Allotments Manager, House Rent Collector, and in war-time Chief of Rescue and Decontamination Civil Defence Services. In fact the person holding the appointment of Sanitary Inspector has been responsible for carrying out nearly all the Council's activities, even including the collection of pennies from the public lavatories.

Fifty years ago, after the establishment of the Urban District Councils, when the statutory obligations of such Authorities were much less onerous than they are today, there may have been justification of this. The legislation of the last fifteen years has made it totally impossible for any Council to continue to even pretend to fulfill the duties imposed upon it by law with an arrangement of this sort. In the province of the Sanitary Inspector alone these duties have been increased both in quality and quantity till the position has been reached when they can only be carried out in the manner envisaged by the legislature imposing them by a specialist in the work. Doubtless much the same situation exists in the province of the Surveyor.

The position in Horncastle Urban District is briefly this. Before the war all the duties were done by Mr. Weeber, the then Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, who was appointed in 1909. As the years passed Mr. Weeber's duties increased and he had less and less time to devote to any one section of them, such as Sanitary Inspection. He was due to retire in 1941 and it was felt that on his retirement an opportunity to recommend to the Council the adoption of a more modern arrangement would arise. Then war broke out and with the declaration of war further duties were imposed on the Local Authorities; ultimately these devolved on the Surveyor.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area virtually stopped with the exception of the Meat inspection, which as a result of the Ministry of Food centralised slaughtering scheme, greatly increased. Mr. Weeber then carried on after his retirement date, though in a poor state of health, until after cessation of hostilities, to retire finally in November, 1946. After he had completed his duties Mr. Weeber was asked for the figures usually supplied by the Sanitary Inspector for the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health. He replied as follows:—

" I do not think you have realised my position and work during the war years and since. At the outbreak of war I was placed in charge for this area of Rescue and Decontamination. I started from scratch; recruited and trained by own personnel, and later on did the same thing for Food Decontamination. These and many other war responsibilities meant that there was no routine Sanitary Inspector's work. Urgent inspections were made but no record kept. The only thing that was done systematically was meat and food inspection, and full records were kept."

In view of the position therefore, no pretence at a report on the Sanitary Inspection of the area is made. Such a pretence would only be "whitewash" of the worst kind.

At the end of 1946 up to date and reliable figures were not available to show what had been done in the way of wartime housing inspections (in accordance with Sec. 5, Housing Act, 1936), the number of earth closets and privies, or the number of private wells. There were no current registers of Dairies, Factories, or premises registered under the Food and Drugs Acts; nor was there any record of nuisances inspected and informal notices issued. In view of the antiquated character of much of the house property in Horncastle this represents a very serious position.

On Mr. Weeber's retirement this was explained to the Council and it was urged that a whole time Sanitary Inspector be appointed. A suggestion was received from the Woodhall Spa Urban District Council that a joint appointment of a Sanitary Inspector be made between the two Authorities. This suggestion was supported by the Minister of Health, but the Council would not agree to it.

Mr. Bolton was appointed Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, Markets and Allotments Manager to take up duty on January 1st, 1947. It is of interest to note that the Council did not consult their Medical Officer of Health in making this appointment. Such a decision is not in accordance with the accepted standards of modern Public Health Administration and causes numerous obstacles to efficient and pleasant working. This may be summarised as follows:— In accordance with the Sanitary Officers (outside London) Regulation, 1935, Art. 27 (1) the Sanitary Inspector must work under the general supervision of the Medical Officer of Health. Where the officer in question holds other appointments equally vital to the working of the Local Authority but beyond the control of the Medical Officer of Health, strict insistence on any administrative policy to fulfill statutory obligations on the part of the Medical Officer of Health results inevitably in friction and consequent bad administration. While if the Medical Officer of Health shows human consideration to the overworked and harrassed Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector this will almost certainly result in neglect of essential but unspectacular routine Public Health work in favour of less important but more obvious matters which attract the attention of the public and the Councillors.

It is therefore recommended that the Council once more give urgent consideration to this matter with a view to approaching the Minister of Health to combine with adjacent Local Government Areas for the purpose of Sanitary Inspection in accordance with the Public Health Act, 1936, Sec. 6. This recommendation is made for two reasons:—

1. It offers the only possible chance for the officials concerned to overtake the existing arrears of work and to comply with the obligations placed upon both the officials and the Council by Statute in the manner envisaged by the legislature in framing the statutes concerned.

2. In view of the forthcoming review of Local Government areas by the Boundary Commission urgent steps to improve the efficiency of the Sanitary Administration of the Urban District must be taken to justify the continuance of the Local Authority in its present Status.

HOUSING

Three housing schemes have been prepared. The first of these was for 10 temporary prefabricated houses of the Tarran pattern. These were erected during 1946 and all were occupied during the year. This site is situated on "The Wong." The second is for a total of 26 houses and is situated in Mareham Road. During 1946 the necessary land was acquired and tenders were put out for the building of 26 houses. The third scheme has gone no further than the drawing board stage.

As to the repair and rendering fit of defective houses, little has been done owing to the complete break down of housing and sanitary inspection. Some 5 informal notices were served as a result of complaints to the Medical Officer of Health personally.

CONTROL AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY.

In common with the other aspects of Sanitary Inspection in the Urban District the inspection of cowsheds, etc., has suffered from neglect during the war years. No satisfactory Dairies Register existed at the end of 1946. Steps are, however, being taken to correct this deficiency.

MEAT, ETC.

The Ministry of Food Centralised Slaughtering Scheme which came into operation in 1940 has proved to be a great advantage in that it renders easy the supervision of inspection of meat.

The central abbatoir has been established at Horncastle, and serves butchers in the Urban District, in Woodhall Spa Urban District, and the Rural Districts of Horncastle and Spilsby. The abbatoir itself is a most unsatisfactory building from every aspect, and ought as soon as possible to be replaced by one where it is possible to accord at least elementary hygiene to the meat in the process of dressing, etc

A statement on future policy from the Ministry of Food would be of assistance in suggesting the lines along which steps might be taken to achieve improvements at this most insanitary place.

The work of meat inspection, until the end of 1946, was shared between the Sanitary Inspectors of the Horncastle Urban and Horncastle Rural Districts.

Results of meat inspection are shown in tabular form :

UNSOUND FOOD.

Inspections in Shops

Foods found unfit for sale for Human Consumption.

	1944	1945	1946
Meat - -	380½ lbs.	1589 lbs.	42 lbs.
Tinned Goods -	29 tins	39 tins	38 tins,
Fish - -	28 crates	—	140 lbs.
Fruit - -	3 crates	26 lbs.	—
Other Foods -	35¾ lbs.	94 lbs.	360 lbs.

All the above were surrendered and dealt with in the usual way.

ICE CREAM.

It was found early in 1946 that no register of ice cream manufacturers or sellers had been kept in the Urban District in accordance with the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Sec. 14. Steps were taken to remedy this and all premises were inspected and registered. All premises were found on inspection to be in an excellent condition.

RESULTS OF INSPECTION OF MEAT

at Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse, Horncastle.

	1944		1945		1946	
	Killed	Inspected	Killed	Inspected	Killed	Inspected
Cattle ...	1271	1271	1019	1019	1197	1197
Sheep ...	4892	4892	4595	4595	3842	3842
Pigs ...	475	475	492	492	185	185
Calves ...	275	275	279	275	396	396

Condemned	1944			1945			1946		
	Carcases	Parts	Pounds	Carcases	Parts	Pounds	Carcases	Parts	Pounds
Cattle ...	40	54	25626	27	83	21598	36	60	
Sheep ...	29	14	1660	27	23	1891	41	22	
Pigs ...	24	4	4569	29	12	4710	7	—	
Calves ...	1	2	39	2	2	372	3	1	
Offals ...			8502			9912			9482
Totals ...	94	74	40396	85	120	38483	87	83	17085*

* Total figures only available.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

During the war years much work was done towards securing immunisation against Diphtheria of children under 15 years of age, both those attending school and pre-school children.

Unfortunately it was found that records were far from complete and efforts were made to correct this deficiency. This was due to the fact that several different people had been responsible for this work, and each had a particular method of his own of recording this work.

The Ministry of Health method of recording as set out in Circular 193/45 was adopted and steps were taken to obtain records of those not already available. This involved many hours of work that could have been avoided by careful record keeping. This was done as a preliminary to offering reinforcing doses to all those children whose parents desire it. One feature of minor importance during the year was the provision by the Council of sweets to be given to every child on the occasion of immunisation.

As mentioned previously there were no cases of or deaths from Diphtheria during the three years under review.

	1944.		1945.		1946.	
	0—5	5—15	0—5	5—15	0—5	5—15
No. of children immunised in Urban District ...	165	527	142	468	164	484

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifications of infectious diseases during the three years under consideration are shown in tabular form. Apart from 109 cases of Measles in 1945 the Urban District has been remarkably free from infectious diseases. It is a matter of satisfaction to note that not a single case of Diphtheria has been notified during the three year period.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS 1944, 1945, 1946

Disease	Civilian			Service			Treated in Hospital			Deaths		
	1944	1945	1946	1944	1945	1946	1944	1945	1946	1944	1945	1946
Scarlet Fever	7	—	1	1	—	—	6	—	1	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	5	5	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2
Dysentery	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Infective Hepatitis ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Meningitis	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—
Measles	4	109	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	1	8	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS

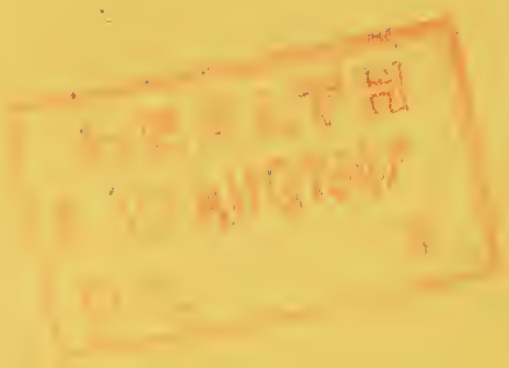
During the three years under consideration there has been no abnormal incidence of Tuberculosis in the Urban District.

The tabular analysis below shows the position as regards notifications and deaths from this disease. No action was taken nor was any necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under the Public Health Act 1936, Sec. 172.

	New Cases												Deaths											
	Pulmonary						Non Pulmonary						Pulmonary						Non Pulmonary					
	1944		1945		1946		1944		1945		1946		1944		1945		1946		1944		1945		1946	
Age	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
1-5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
5-10	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
10-15	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-25	—	—	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35	2	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-45	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & Over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2	1	2	2	4	5	1	Nil	3	1	1	4	2	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	1	1	1

Cases on the Register at the end of 1946:

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	21	18	39
Non pulmonary	6	7	13
Totals	27	25	52



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